

Serial No. 09/973,224
Docket No. WEB 0035 IA

Remarks

In the Office Action made final the Examiner has maintained the rejection to claims 1-16 and 18-22 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hertrampf (US 6,021,912). Accordingly, in an effort to place this application in a condition for allowance, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 20 to recite a feature neither disclose nor suggested by the cited art.

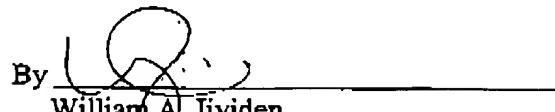
In particular, Hertrampf and the remaining cited art, fails to teach and suggest, *inter alia*, a "sealing strip being adapted to engage the upper outer edge and a portion of the outer wall of the threaded bottle neck such that the sealing strip extends between the cylindrical bead and the threaded bottle neck." As independent claims 1 and 20 recite such a limitation, Applicant asserts that rejected claims 1-16, and 18-22 are allowable over the cited art.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hertrampf in view of Dai (US 6,044,995). Dai is cited for disclosing a tamper band, and therefore does not correct the above noted deficiency of Hertrampf. Accordingly, this rejection has also been overcome by the amendment to claim 1, and claim 17 is also allowable over the cited art.

The Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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